

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 24-27 and 41-42 with claims 28-40 being withdrawn from consideration as directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 21-23 have been canceled in favor of new claim 41 which has been added along with new claim 42, and claims 24-27 have been amended to depend on new claim 41. Support for the claims may be found inter alia in the original claims 1-3. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

Claim 21-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rechmeier EP 471987.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As set forth in new claim 41, Applicant's invention provides a method of producing 1,2-dichloroethane or ethylene (di)chloride (EDC) using a circulating reaction medium and a catalyst in which (a) ethylene is introduced into the circulating reaction medium at a point upstream and, after passing to a mixing and dissolving zone, completely dissolved in the reaction medium stream, and (b) chlorine is dissolved in a cooled part stream of the reaction medium and subsequently supplied to the main stream of the reaction medium farther downstream. In this way, a process is provided which overcomes the problems in the prior art in which

an excess of chlorine is already on hand when the ethylene starts to dissolve.

The Reichmeier patent discloses a method for producing 1, 2-dichloroethane in which the chlorine is introduced into the system at 11 before the addition of the ethylene at 5, which leads to problems in having an excess of chlorine already on hand when the ethylene starts to dissolve. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Reichmeier fails to anticipate Applicants claim 41 and dependent claims 42 and 24-27.

In summary, claims 21-23 have been canceled, claims 24-27 have been amended, and new claims 41 and 42 have been added. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
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